



SENATOR  
**BILL HARDIMAN**

***E-Hardiman Herald***



*Chair, Families & Human  
Services Committee  
Appropriations Committee;  
Chair, Family Independence  
Agency, Commerce Labor  
& Economic Development,  
Capitol Outlay,  
Higher Education*

On November 11 we remembered with gratitude the veterans who answered our nation's call to duty, continuing the pursuit of peace and freedom at home and around the world. It is an honor to join with the rest of the nation in saying thank you for your service.

The following information may be of interest to our veterans and their families

### **License Plates Support the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Since 2001, Michigan citizens have provided support for the Michigan Vietnam Veterans Memorial through the purchase of Veterans Memorial specialty license plates. Sales of the plates, which feature silver dog tags and the reminder "Lest We Forget," have raised over \$300,000.

The Vietnam Veterans' Memorial is part of the Michigan Veterans' Memorial Park, located two blocks west of the State Capitol Building in Lansing. The park is dedicated to all Michigan veterans, past, present, and future. Legislation signed into law this year expands the park by nearly an acre and creates a new monument to honor Michigan Purple Heart recipients. Approximately 60,000 of the medal recipients live in our state.

### **Check-off Supports Tuition Grant Program**

Veterans and all Michigan taxpayers can help fund a special program for veterans' survivors when filing their 2006 Michigan tax returns in the coming months. Legislation I supported last year creates an income tax check-off program allowing people to contribute \$2 or more of their refund to the Children of Veterans Tuition Program.

This program provides an annual grant for college tuition and fees to children of veterans who died in combat or are missing in action, or who have died or are totally disabled as a result of service-related injuries. It was previously funded by the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund. For more information on eligibility and an application form, visit [www.michigan.gov/dmva](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva). Click on Veterans Affairs on the sidebar and then click on Tuition Grant Procedure Brief.

The new check-off program not only protects the tuition program but ensures that Trust Fund money will only be used for its original purpose – to provide temporary emergency assistance to Michigan wartime veterans.

### **Senator Hardiman Supports Senate Bill to Steer Defense Contracts to Michigan**

A Senate bill enacted into law this summer uses money from the 21st Century Jobs Fund -Michigan's job development fund - to set up a Defense Contract Coordination Center. The goal of this new office is to help bring defense and homeland security jobs to the state by helping businesses secure Department of

Defense contracts. I strongly supported this bill. Michigan was known as the Arsenal of Democracy during World War II and we are well positioned to assume a vital role once again.

In a related matter, six homeland security and defense research proposals recently snared over \$9 million dollars in the 21st Century Jobs Fund research initiative. Find out more about the winning proposals at [www.michigan.org/21stcentury](http://www.michigan.org/21stcentury).

Resources

Find the latest information on veteran's benefits and assistance at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). Or call toll-free 1-800-827-1000.

Contact my office toll-free at 1-866-305-2129 or visit Senator Hardiman's website/email at [www.senate.michigan.gov/hardiman](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/hardiman) for a copy of the publication Veterans Benefits and Services: For Michigan Veterans Who Served in the Military. Topics include information on education, employment, medical treatment and more.

Keep up-to-date on state homeland security issues at [www.michigan.gov/homeland](http://www.michigan.gov/homeland).

For information on purchasing the Veterans Memorial specialty license plate, visit [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos). Click on the sidebar Owning a Vehicle; then click on License Plate Store.

The Military Family Relief Fund provides special assistance to qualifying families of members of the Michigan National Guard or Reserves who are serving in the war on terror. For more information, call toll-free 1-866-271-4404 or visit [www.michigan.gov/dmva](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva).

### **Senator Hardiman's Reminds Veterans to Guard Against Identity Theft**

As you may be aware, personal information for up to 26.5 million veterans was at risk earlier this year when a computer was stolen from a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs employee. Fortunately, the computer was later recovered and law officials don't believe the information stored on the computer was accessed or compromised. This incident serves as a reminder that veterans should be vigilant about safeguarding their personal information.

Several Michigan Senate bills recently passed into law provide some of the strongest protections against identity theft in the nation. Yet, even with the toughest laws, people still fall victim to this crime. Take these steps to help protect you and your family:

Carefully monitor bank statements, credit card statements, and any statements relating to recent financial transactions.  
Immediately report any suspicious or unusual activity to your financial institution and file a police report.

Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

Get a copy of your credit report each year. You can request a free credit report from one of the three major credit bureaus at [www.AnnualCreditReport.com](http://www.AnnualCreditReport.com) or by calling 1-877-322-8228.  
For the latest information from the VA, go to [www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo](http://www.firstgov.gov/veteransinfo).

By the Numbers: America's Living Veterans

World War I.....less than 25

World War II.....3,279,769

Korean War.....3,144,812

Vietnam War.....7,989,714

Gulf War.....2,015,235

War on Terror.....555,478

Veterans Day National Committee

2006 Teacher's Resource Guide